

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 0052

EXDIS

FOR S/S RUST DEMING FROM MARK DION

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 36

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORT, OAS, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH ARGENTINA (JUNE 16)

1. PARTICIPANTS: US: SECRETARY VANCE, AMBASSADOR TODMAN, UDERSECRETARY HABIB, AMBASSADOR MCGEE, MRS VAN REIGERSBERG (INTERPRETER) MR S ROGERS (NOTETAKER). ARGENTINA: MINISTER MONTES, VICE MINISTER GUATTER OSCAR ALLARA, MINISTER JUAN CARLOS ARLIA, JOSE I GARCIA GHIRELLI, ATILIO NORBERTO MOTTENI.

2. SUBJECTS: BILATERAL AT OASGA WITH ARGENTINA; HUMAN RIGHTS; NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION.

3. AFTER BRIEF REMARKS ABOUT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER GUZZETTI'S MEDICAL VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THE SECRETARY'S COMMENT THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO CONFER WITH PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS IN TRIDID, THE CONVERSATION WENT DIRECTLY TO HUMAN RIGHTS.

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4. THE SECRETARY INFORMED THE ARGENTINES THAT THE US WOULD ABSTAIN ON THE TWO LOANS TO ARGENTINA IN THE WORLD BANK BUT MAKE A REFERENCE TO THE PROGRESS ON HUMAN RIGHTS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE. MONTES NODDED BUT SAID NOTHING AT THAT POINT IN RESPONSE. THE SECRETARY ASKED WHAT MONTES THOUGHT WOULD COME OUT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. MONTES REFERRED TO HIS STATEMENT IN THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE. HE THEN DESCRIBED THE SITUATION AND VIEWS OF ARGENTIA AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH. THE 1976 ARMY TAKE-OVER WAS A NATIONAL REORGANIZATION, NOT A REVOLUTION. THERE HAS BEEN NO POLITICAL PERSECUTION. THE COMMUNIST PARTY, FOR INSTANCE, REMAINS LEGAL AND PUBLISHES ITS NEWS-PAPER FREELY. THE PROBLEM IS TERRORISM, NOT POLITICAL RIGHTS. CERTAIN GUARANTEES ARE INDEED SUSPENDED BUT THE CONSTITUTION PROVIDES FOR SUSPENSION IN A STATE OF SIEGE. ARGENTINES ARE BEING GOVERNED BY THE LAW. THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE STATE OF SIEGE APPLY ONLY TO TERRORIST CRIMINALS. HE COULD NOT SAY PRECISELY WHEN THE STATE OF SIEGE WOULD BE LIFTED, BUT SO MUCH IMPROVEMENT HAD TAKEN PLACE THAT TERRORISM MIGHT EFFECTIVELY BE ENDED BY THE END OF 1977.

6. ALLARA DESCRIBED THE TERRORIST THREAT AT THE TIME THE ARMED FORCES TOOK OVER. MONTES THEN RETURNED TO THE QUESTION OF THE WORLD BANK LOANS. HE SAID MARTINEZ DE HOZ HAD REPORTED ON HIS CONVERSATION WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AND DR BRZEZINSKI. HE SAID ARGENTINA IS VERY CONCERNED THAT TECHNICAL MATTERS ARE BEING SUBORDINATED TO POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. MARTINEZ DE HOZ HAD REPORTED THAT PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WERE NOT WELL-INFORMED FOR INSTANTNE CONCERNING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD BEEN REALESED.

7. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE TO ABSTAIN INSTEAD OF VOTING AGAINST. WE WOULD WATCH FOR FURTHER PROGRESS TO SEE IF WE COULD SOON VOTE
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IN FAVOR OF LOANS FOR ARGENTINA. ALLARA THEN PROPOSED A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO BEGIN WITH A PERMANENT, FRANK AND THOROUGH DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE US AND ARGENTINA ON ALL MATTERS OF COMMON CONCERN.

8. IN ANSWER TO UNDERSECRETARY HABIB'S QUESTION, MONTES DESCRIBED ARGENTINA'S VULNERABILITY TO TRAFFICKING IN ARMS FOR GUERRILLAS. HABIB NOTED THE SENATE ACTION OF THE DAY BEFORE TO CUT OFF ALL ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1978, IF NO PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE BY THEN ON HUMAN RIGHTS, INSTEAD OF AN IMMEDIATE CUT OFF AS PROPOSED BY SENATOR KENNEDY. THE SECRETARY SAID THIS CHANGE REFLECTED THE UNDOUBTED PROGRESS ARGENTINA HAD MADE.

9. COMING BACK TO THE PORPOSAL FOR COOPERATION, MONTES SUGGESTED A GROUP OF US ARMY OFFICERS VISIT ARGENTINA TO SEE THE REAL SITUATION. ALLARA THEN EXPLAINED AT LENGTH WHY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT FEEL THAT IT IS VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS. BETTER KNOWLEDGE WOULD SHOW THE US

THAT ARGENTINA WAS MERELY DEFENDING THE WESTERN WAY OF LIFE.

10. ARLIA THEN NAMED FIVE "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVISTS" WHO HE SAID WERE PROVIDING THE MOST ABUNDANT INFORMATION ON ARGENTINA IN THE US: ROBERT GUEVARA (CHE'S BROTHER), LUCIO GARZON-MACEDO AND GUSTAVO ROCA, BOTH LAWYERS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY ARMY, PEDRO DUALDE, AND MRS LILY MAZZAFERRO. HE SAID GUEVARA AND ROCA HAD WORKED WITH BRADY TYSON ON THE US STATEMENT AT THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. HE SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE FREQUENTLY SEEN WITH FATHER DRINAN. ROCA, HE SAID, HAD JUST BEEN ARRESTED IN DENMARK FOR ROBBING SUPERMARKETS AND FOR HAVING FALSE IDENTIFICATION PAPERS. HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS WITH MS DERIAN.

11. THE SECRETARY DESCRIBED MS DERIAN AS COMPLETELY DEDICATED AND VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE; MONTES AND ALLARA QUICKLY CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREED SHE HAD BEEN VERY USEFUL TO THE ARGENTINES IN HER VISIT TO THEIR COUNTRY, THEY ADDED. SHE MIGHT BE THE FIRST LINK IN THE COLLABORATIVE EFFORT THAT ARGENTINA WANTS. IN ANSWER TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, ARLIA SAID ARGENTINA FAVORED STRENGTHENING THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION BY GIVING IT MORE PRECISE TERMS OF REFERENCE. ITS REAL JOB WAS TO COOPERATE IN THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS GENERALLY, NOT JUST FOCUSING ON GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES.

12. AMBASSADOR TODMAN HAD EARLIER ASKED WHY ARGENTINA DID NOT ACCEDE TO THE TREATY OF TLATELOCO. ARLIA SAID ARGENTINA'S POSITION WAS WELL KNOWN - THAT TLATELOCO AND THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY DISCRIMINATED AGAINST COUNTRIES THAT NEEDED TO DEVELOP THEIR NUCLEAR ENERGY CAPACITY, SUCH AS ARGENTINA. ARGENTINA'S NEEDS ARE ENTIRELY PACIFIC. ARGENTINA NEEDS TO DOUBLE ITS ENERGY CAPACITY BY 1982. NUCLEAR POWER IS INDISPENSABLE.

13. THE SECRETARY ACCEPTED THAT ARGENTINA NEEDED NUCLEAR POWER BUT SAID THAT NOTHING IN THE TREATY INFRINGES ON THE RIGHT OF PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IT WOULD BE ENTIRELY CONSISTENT FOR ARGENTINA TO SIGN THE TLATELOCO TREATY. ALLARA SAID THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WAS REVIEWING ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS TLATELOCO AND THE NPT, BUT SAFEGUARDS WERE A MORE LIKELY APPROACH. AMBASSADOR TODMAN STRESSED THE INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF ARGENTINA'S SIGNING TO ENCOURAGE THE FEW REMAINING OTHERS TO DO SO.

14. IN CONCLUSION, THE SECRETARY SAID SHE WOULD ASK

MS DERIAN TO CARRY ON HER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINES
ON HUMAN RIGHTS. ON OTHER MATTERS, HE WOULD WORK THROUGH
OUR AMBASSADOR AND SPECIALISTS. HE HOPED THAT HE AND
MONTES COULD CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSION. MONTES AGREED.

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